SPECIAL AGM EDITION

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019-2020

The 110th Annual General Meeting of the East Africa Natural History Society (EANHS) was held on Wednesday 19th, August 2020 virtually (via Zoom), in compliance with the government's Covid-19 Protocols. Below is the Chairman's Report.

BACKGROUND

- Was established in 1909 as the **East Africa Natural History Society (EANHS)**.
- The **EANHS** is one of Africa's oldest scientific Societies.
- **Nature Kenya** is the **BirdLife** partner in Kenya.
- **Aim** – Promotion of the study of natural history and conservation of nature in Eastern Africa.

NATURE KENYA GUIDING THEMES

2015-2020 STRATEGIC PILLARS

1. Save species

2. Protect sites and habitats

3. Encourage ecological sustainability

4. Empower people to support nature

YEAR 2019/20 CONSERVATION CHALLENGES

2019/20 OVERARCHING RESPONSES

SPECIAL AGM EDITION

IMPACTS OF COVID-19

- Nature Kenya unrestricted income in danger
- Staff working from home
- Office closed to members and the public
- Cashless transactions at the shop
- Only electronic nature net
- Events postponed (golf, Annual General Meeting, Birdwalks, talks and field trips)
- Gallery and library closed
- Increased Species and Site threats
- Little conservation taking place nationally
- Field activities reduced to basic monitoring (no meetings)
- Loss of conservation related community livelihoods e.g. Site Support Groups' (SSGs) income-generating activities (IGAs) affected and butterfly farming business in Arabuko-Sokoke collapsed.

NATURE KENYA RESPONSES TO COVID-19 SITE THREATS

Covid-19 Species and Site threats:

- Fuel wood collection, charcoal burning, illegal logging, mangrove cutting, overgrazing in forests, snaring, pollution, encroachment, wildlife poisoning, debarking among others.
- SSGs income generating activities affected.
- Butterfly farming business in Arabuko-Sokoke collapsed.

Emergency Support from Urgent Conservation Fund and Projects

- Support to Kipepeo farmers for climate smart agriculture, emergency loans, butterfly feed plants and nets (KSh.1,739,000).
- Arabuko-Sokoke Forest one month support to Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Adjacent Dwellers Association (ASFADA) for patrols and de-snaring (Ksh 167,150).
- Support to 29 Site Support Groups at 26 sites to respond to site threats due to Covid-19 (Ksh 1 million).

PILLAR ONE: SAVE SPECIES

Prevent Extinctions

- Nature Kenya was the recipient of the 2019 Champions of the Flyway funds targeting Africa Vulture Conservation work.
- Nature Kenya with BirdLife and Peregrine Fund supporting Kipeto Wind Energy to generate biodiversity net gain targeting vultures and raptors.
- A network of 65 Vulture monitors coordinated by four Vulture liaison officers in Mara and Amboseli landscapes are working to stop vulture poisoning.

CHAMPIONS OF THE FLYWAY
Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel
BirdLife
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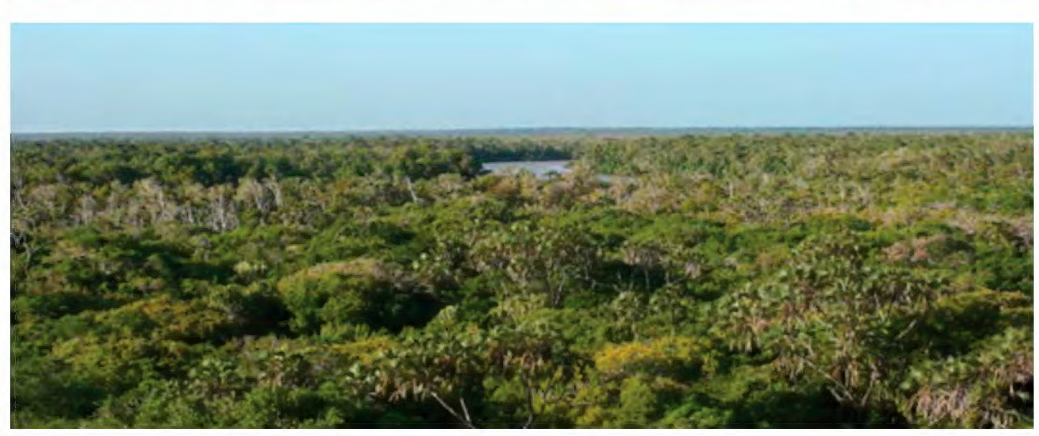
- Seventeen vultures were successfully trapped and tagged with satellite and GSM transmitters (11 in the Maasai Mara and 6 in Southern Kenya).
- Monthly maps were produced for all the birds and shared with all partners and other conservation organizations across southern Kenya.

- **8.5 ha** of land purchased in Taita Hills for the conservation of **Taita Apalis**.
- **1,300 acres** of land purchased in Dakatcha Woodland for the conservation of **Clarke's Weaver**.
- A species conservation action plan for **six globally threatened species** of **Arabuko-Sokoke Forest** and **Dakatcha Woodland** developed.

- Maps for the **Tana Delta Indigenous and Community Conservation Area (ICCA)** produced and included in the CCA management plan.



Tana River Delta.

For updates visit
www.naturekenya.org

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Promote Maintenance of Common Species

- Water fowl counts carried out in nine Rift Valley lakes in January 2020 and July 2019 collaboratively (National Museums of Kenya (NMK), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and Nature Kenya).

Flock of flamingos at Lake Bogoria.

- Important Bird Area (IBA) species detailed monitoring carried out by seven SSGs.
- 6 SSGs trained on IBA monitoring protocol – South and North Nandi, Mutitu, Mumoni, Mt. Kenya and Kinangop Plateau.
- Six SSGs carried out Common Bird Monitoring in Taita Hills, Dakatcha Woodland, Tana Delta, Mt. Kenya, South and North Nandi.
- 32 government officers/scientists (Kenya Forest Service (KFS), KWS, NMK, Kilifi, Tana River and Lamu Counties) trained on IBA basic monitoring protocols.

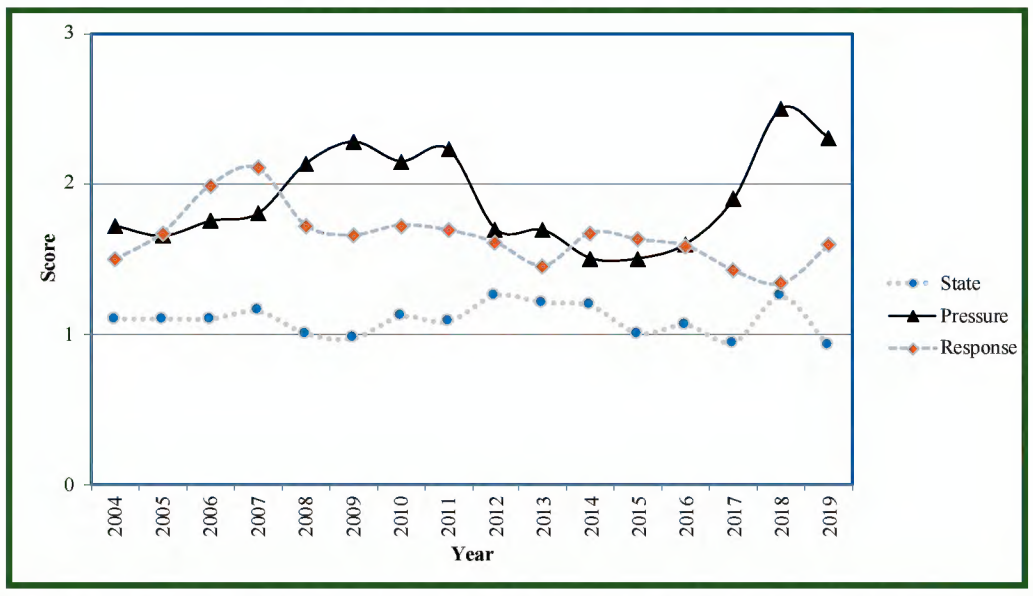
Training on IBA basic monitoring protocols at Tana River Delta.

PILLAR TWO: CONSERVE SITES AND HABITATS

Identify, Monitor and Maintain the Integrity of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas

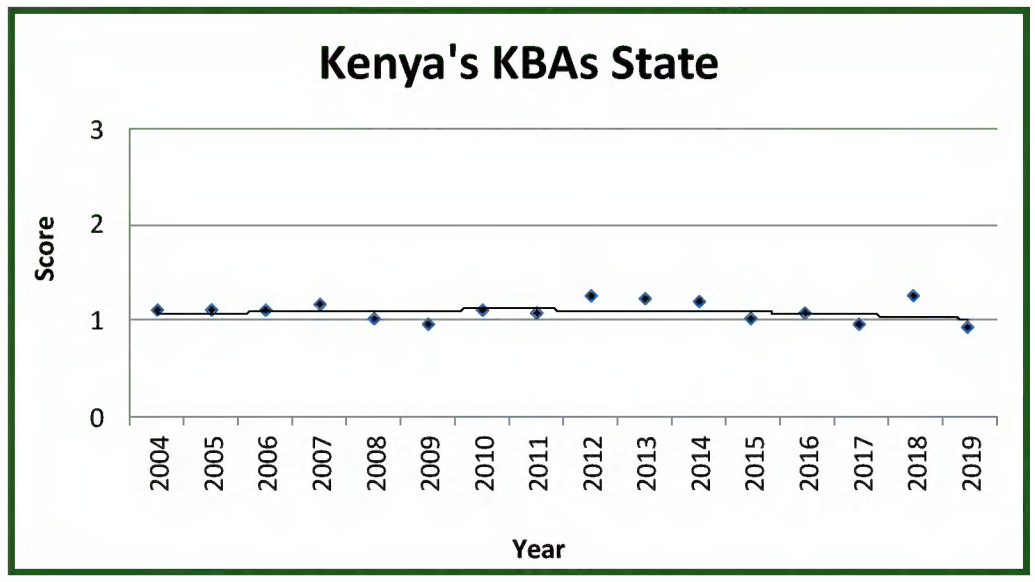
- IBA/Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) monitoring framework for 67 sites implemented collaboratively with KWS, KFS, NMK, SSGs and others.
- 2018 IBA Status and Trends report published.
- World Bird Database (WBDB) updated with **50 IBA basic monitoring forms for 2019**.
- Data analyzed and 2019 IBAs status and trends determined.

IBA Monitoring Results 2004 - 2019

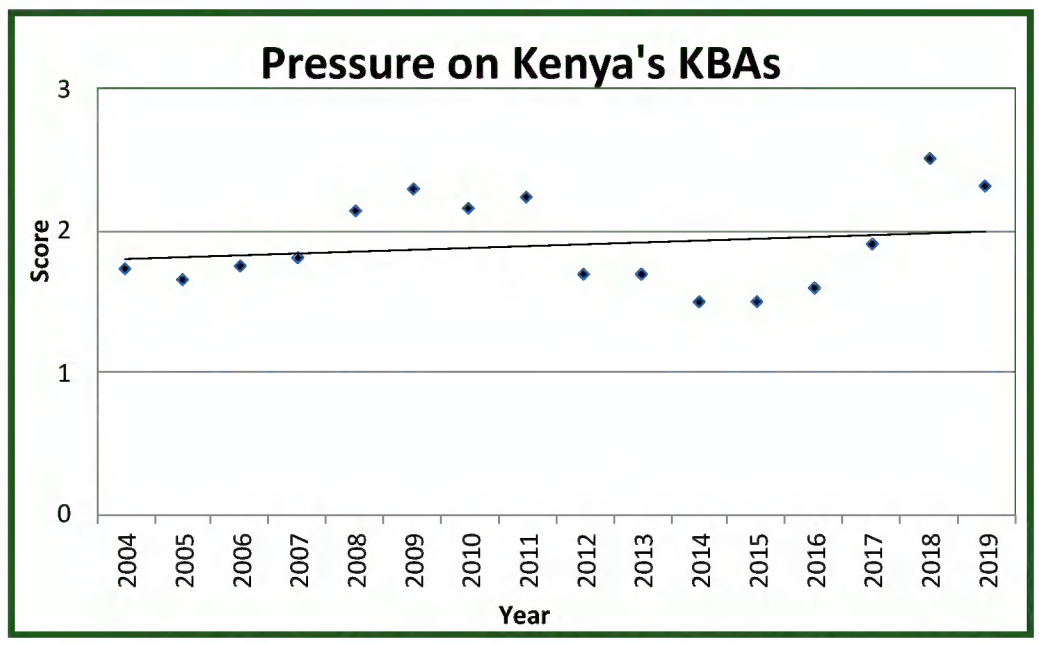


SCORES: 0 = Very unfavourable, 1 = Unfavourable, 2 = Near favourable, 3 = Favourable

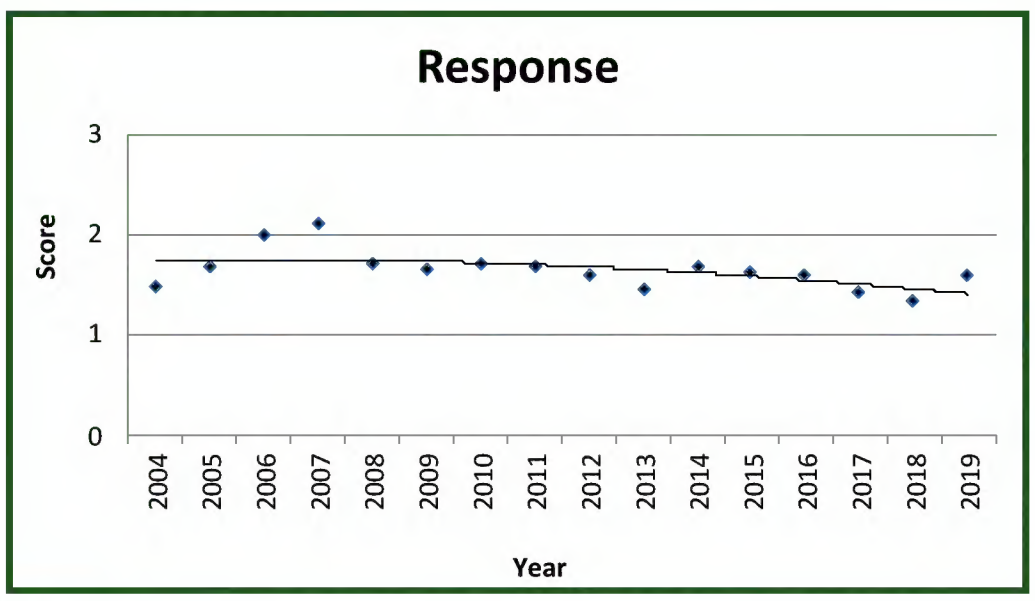
IBA TRENDS (2004-2019)



State: Stable



Pressure: Mounting



Response: Declining

- 17 Government scientists trained in KBA Identification Global Standard (KWS, KFS, NMK, NEMA, University) as part of international training hosted by Nature Kenya with support from Birdlife, Global Wildlife Conservation and CEPF
- 26 taxon experts from NMK and KWS trained on IUCN redlisting with support from BirdLife South Africa, SANBI, IUCN-SSC and KBA-secretariat.

Promote Restoration of Degraded Habitats in IBAs and KBAs

- Inception workshop for The Restoration Initiative (TRI) project for Tana Delta was held in June 2019, in Tana Delta. Implementation of the project has begun.

Launch of TRI project for Tana Delta.

- Nature Kenya is part of 10 country Forest Landscape Restoration GEF Project - The Restoration Initiative under the Bonn Challenge.
- Supporting Kenya Forest Service to develop National Forest Landscape Restoration Implementation Plan targeting restoration of 5.1million ha Kenya committed under the Bonn Challenge.
- Tana Delta Indigenous and Community Conservation Areas (ICCAs) set up.
- Developed Mt Kenya Restoration Strategy which identified **6,200 ha of forest** area in urgent need of restoration.
- Published Mt. Kenya Forest Ecosystem Services Assessment Report
- Developed Mt. Kenya Restoration Business Case justifying why down stream users should engage in restoration.
- One-million trees (1,000 ha) planted by 23 CFAs that were mobilised and trained in restoration.

Aerial view of a section of Mt. Kenya forest.

- **2,308,954 (2,309 ha) indigenous trees** were planted by 17 SSGs across the country,
- **1,500 bamboo seedlings** planted along the rivers in Mt. Kenya west,
- **310 ha of papyrus** restored in Yala Swamp,
- **11,856 mangrove trees** planted and
- **87,100 exotic trees** planted on farm.

Tree planting at various sites.

Create Effective Ecological Networks Resilient to Climate Change

- Tana Delta Terms of reference for Green Industrial Park business case feasibility study developed and advertised.
- 18 climate smart schools installed with energy saving cook stoves.
- 3,000 household provided with energy-saving cook stoves in Mt. Kenya, Dakatcha, Taita, to reduce pressure on forests.
- Climate smart agriculture implemented at three sites (Tana, Yala and Taita).

An energy-saving cook stove in use at a school.

PILLAR THREE: ENCOURAGE ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

Demonstrate and Advocate the Values of Nature

Nature Kenya is seen as a credible premier conservation organization frequently consulted by government and represented in key national/global fora/dialogues:

- Inter-ministerial Technical Committee (IMTC) on Deltas
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)
- National State of Environment Report (SoE)
- National Ramsar Committee

- National Reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Various forums for Global Environmental Days: World Environment Day, International Day to Combat Desertification, World Wetlands Day (WWD), International Day for Biodiversity and others

A NBSAP consultative meeting in session.

- Vibrant in global level discussions on the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CDB) post 2020 targets especially resource mobilization.

Nature Kenya contributed to mainstreaming of biodiversity safeguards into policies, plans and projects for key sectors of economy (Roads, power lines, wind energy, dams (Malewa), LAPSSET);

- Submitted comments on 47 policy processes including Environment Impact Assessments (EIA) reports, Bills and Policies.
- Engaged KETRACO and others in Advocacy campaign to re-route a section of the Olkaria-Lessos-Kisumu high voltage transmission line to avoid migratory bird strikes at Lake Elementeita.
- In partnership with Ministry of Energy, Birdlife, Peregrine Fund and The Biodiversity Consultancy produced Kenya Wind Power and Biodiversity SEA.

Stakeholders meeting for the Kenya Wind Power and Biodiversity SEA.

Nature Kenya empowered local communities at 26 sites to advocate for nature values:

- Capacitated Site Support Group (SSG) members received recognition on national platforms – David Marenya of Yala Ecosystem Site Support Group (YESSG) received an Eco-Warrior award and Ibrahim Onyango also from YESSG was featured in a NTV travel event.
- ASFADA in Arabuko-Sokoke catalysed national forest sector reforms including current ban on logging and charcoal.

Recognition of SSG members.

- 10 SSGs represented in County planning and budgetary processes
- Tana Delta Conservation Network (TDCN) and YESSG engaged counties/national governments to safeguard Tana and Yala KBAs

Encourage and Promote Sustainable Production and Consumption Patterns

Nature Kenya initiated a suite of climate smart livelihoods options as demonstrations:

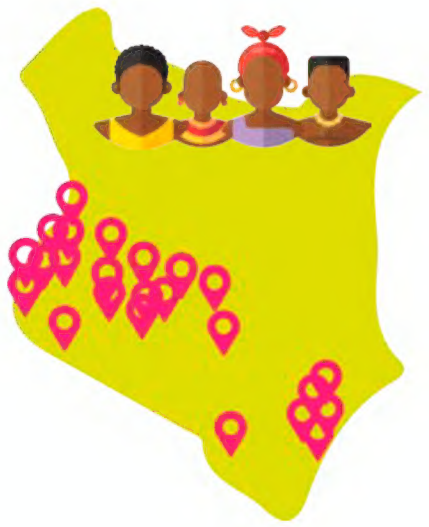
- Tana Delta and Yala Swamp drip irrigation farming, fast maturing high-value drought-resistant crops, shade net and, fish farming, beekeeping, poultry among others.
- Tana Delta community enterprise and livelihoods demonstration center built: poultry, beekeeping, vegetables, fish, milk, and chilli farming initiated with links to private sector.
- Bee keeping at 26 sites, ecotourism in Dunga and Dakatcha, fish farming.

Climate smart farming in Tana River Delta.

PILLAR FOUR: EMPOWER PEOPLE TO SUPPORT NATURE

Build Grassroot Capacity and Networks for Nature Conservation

Nature Kenya enhanced knowledge and skills of a network of 26 Site Support Groups (SSGs) and 45 Community Forest Associations (CFAs) to save species, and protect sites.



- 271 SSGs and CFAs members trained: Leadership, Governance, Project Management, Communication, Proposal Writing, Forest Governance and Participatory Forest Management.
- 31 land owners and five SSG members in Dakatcha Woodland trained on set up of Community Conservation Areas (CCAs) and their management to safeguard the unprotected Clarke's Weaver.
- 46 SSGs members from 23 SSGs trained during the annual SSG workshop in September 2019.
- 113 SSG members from 9 KBAs trained in detailed IBA monitoring (SONABIC, FoKP, Mt. Kebio, Murguiywet, Mumoni, Mutitu, ASFADA, Tana Delta (TDCN) and Dakatcha).

A capacity building training in session.

Nature Kenya empowered SSGs at 26 sites to engage local people and county governments to safeguard species and protect sites.

- **17 SSGs** were part of County Governments' decision making processes including county forest/ environment policies and budget making.
- **11 SSGs** engaged media to promot species and site conservation: Kinangop, Arabuko-Sokoke, Mida, Yala, Mt. Kenya, Mara, Kereita, Lakes Elementaita/Ol'bolosat and Dunga.

Members of a SSG at one of the local radio stations.

- **17 SSG**s planted **2,308,954 (2,309 ha)** indigenous trees.
- **18 SSGs** conducted common bird monitoring, seven detailed monitoring and **five** took part in waterfowl census.
- **Ksh. 12.5 million** fundraised by nine SSGs to support conservation activities and livelihoods improvement.

Nature Kenya implemented a suite of income generating activities to enhance local livelihoods as incentive for connecting nature and people for species and site conservation.

Ksh 82,395,755

earned by SSGs through various income generating activities in 2019 including:

Tree seedling propagation

Ksh 25,509,200

Butterfly farming

Ksh. 25,073,200

Eco-tourism

Ksh 19,097,270

Bee keeping

Ksh. 3,996,225

Educate Young People about Nature

Nature Kenya and SSGs created site and national awareness for species and site conservation.

- **19 SSGs** visited **321 schools** reaching **15,947 students** in primary and secondary schools
- **Nine Eco-resource centers at nine sites** educated **14,510 school children** and **6,655 adults** who visited in 2019
- **55,632 people** attended celebrations for global environmental days at **17 sites**.

Public engagement at various events.

Build Constituency and Membership Base For Nature Kenya

- Corporate members 35, individual members – 1,027.
- Retained 801 members.
- 226 new members and five corporates joined Nature Kenya.

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CLASSIC SAFARIS

Engaged with Nature Kenya members:

- Wednesday Morning birdwalks held weekly until mid-March.
- Sunday Birdwatch outings held monthly until April.
- Two successful hiking and birding outings.
- Eight monthly talks organized.

Engagement of members.

Membership Recruitment drives:

13 exhibitions and member recruitment drives held, 58 new members recruited;

- World Wetlands day
- TBC workshop
- 2019 Charity golf
- Nature Kenya 109th AGM
- World Environment Day
- Nairobi International Trade Fair
- National Site Support Group workshop
- Stockholm Environmental Institute Policy and Inovation Forum
- Kenyan Wildlife Talk
- Reptiles and Amphibians Training
- Canadian High Commision
- Premier Textile Expo
- Get Away Tourism Fair

A membership recruitment drive.

Communication:

- 11 issues of Nature Nets produced and sent out to all active members.
- Kenya birding Issue 13 (2019) Produced and distributed to members.
- 10 corporate members featured on the magazine through advertising.

- Active online (website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn).

UK Birdfair Participation- August 2019

- Participated in the UK Birdfair in August 2019, Nature Kenya partnered with Bushtruckers Tours.
- 10 corporate members featured in the magazine through advertising.

Nature Kenya stand at the UK Birdfair.

Corporate Sponsorship

- Kenya Breweries Limited announced support of Ksh 8,000,000 for planting and nurturing 100,000 seedlings in Mt. Kenya and Aberdare forest in 2019 and 2020.

Handing over of a cheque from Kenya Breweries Limited.

- Kenya Breweries staff participated in the planting of 60,000 tree seedlings in Mt . Kenya and Aberdare forests.

Kenya Breweries Limited staff engaging in planting trees at various sites.

FUNDING & SUPPORT

- BirdLife partnership
- Nature Kenya's fundraising capacity enhanced.
- Project funders diversified.
- 35 corporate members engaged.
- RSPB core development support.
- Efficient programme delivery and donor reporting.

Covid-19 will not just go away

We are adapting to the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. Nature Kenya held its first virtual Annual General Meeting on 19th August. Thank you to all those who were able to join! We encourage staff and members to follow health guidelines and hope you stay safe and well.

We continue with conservation work, including advocacy at the national and county level and working with communities to protect sites and species and sustain livelihoods. Some activities remain postponed and some may be postponed further; meanwhile new activities are starting up worldwide.

1. Members will receive an electronic version of the 2020 issue of the Kenya Birding magazine.
2. Members will receive an electronic version of the Nature Net until further notice
3. The Membership office and shop is closed until further notice. Membership recruitment and renewal continues. Visit http://naturekenya.org/support/membership/ and use cashless payment options such as M-Pesa or credit/debit cards. Your membership cards will be processed and mailed to you.
4. As long as the main office remains open part of the time, members may also buy Arabuko-Sokoke honey. Pay by M-pesa (Pay bill 100300, account "Honey") and arrange a time to collect the honey. Ring the bell at the entrance of the office behind the galleries.
5. Some museums and sites are expected to re-open soon.
6. Wednesday Morning Birdwalks, Sunday bird walks, field trips and talks remain suspended until further notice.
7. The 'Lungs for Kenya' Charity Golf Tournament 2020 may be moved to March 2021.
8. Birders are encouraged to visit the Virtual African Bird Fair on 5th September and to take part in Global Birding on October 17-18.

Threats remain to species and habitats, and conservation work must go on. Please continue to support Nature Kenya, and to observe and enjoy nature from wherever you are.

For clarifications or to report your observations on species and sites, kindly contact us through email: office@naturekenya.org or telephone: 020 3537568, 0780 149200, 0751 624312, 0771 343138

Dr. Paul Matiku,
Executive Director, **Nature Kenya** – the East Africa Natural History Society

Red Mars and Orange Betelgeuse at dawn

BY FLEUR NG'WENO

In September 2020, you can view the five planets visible to the naked eye. After the sun sets, little Mercury starts to appear above the sunset. The thin crescent moon passes Mercury on Sept 18 to 19, and Mercury passes the blue-white star Spica on Sept 21-22.

Across the sky, bright Jupiter is high in the east, almost overhead. It is followed in the east by Saturn, also golden but less bright. The moon is near Jupiter and Saturn on Sept 25.

Mars rises in the east during the evening and is high in the west at dawn. The "red planet" is brightening as its orbit brings it nearer to Earth. It is now brighter than Sirius, the brightest star we see at night. (Planets, however, don't produce their own light; they reflect the light of the sun – our star). By the end of September, Mars is brighter than Jupiter! The moon is near Mars on Sept 5 and 6 and on October 2.

In the morning sky, beautiful bright Venus is high over the sunrise. The waning crescent moon is near Venus on Sept 14. Late in the month, Venus seems close to the bright star Regulus.

Moon, Sept '20
Sept 2, full moon, rising in the east at sunset. Sept 10, last quarter (half-lit moon overhead at dawn). Sept 17, new moon – look for the faint crescent near Mercury on the 18th. Sept 24, first quarter (half-lit moon overhead at sunset). October 1, full moon.

Sun, Sept '20
The equinox ¬– when day and night are of equal length, all over the world – is Sept 22 this year. Here on the equator, the sun seems to both rise earlier and set earlier (compared to the clock) in Sept-Oct-Nov.

September Stars
The fishhook shape of the constellation Scorpius, the Scorpion, moves towards the southwest. With binoculars, you can see several star clusters near the Scorpion's tail and stinger. To the south (left) of the Scorpion is the constellation Sagittarius, the Archer of the ancient Greeks. The stars of Sagittarius seem to form the shape of a teapot, or a basket with handles. The moon is near Antares, the Scorpion's fiery eye, on Sept 22, and near Nunki in Sagittarius on Sept 24.

The bright star Altair is high in the northeast. Two stars, northwest and southeast of Altair, seem to escort it in the sky. North of Altair, lower in the sky, is the brilliant white star Vega. To the east (right) of Vega is the bright star Deneb. Altair, Deneb and Vega form a giant triangle in the northern sky.

On a clear, dark night, look carefully in the sky northeast of Altair. You may see a group of five stars, like a kite with a string. Can you imagine these stars as the little constellation of Delphinus, the leaping dolphin?

If you are up before dawn, look for the brightest star, Sirius, in the south east; and the second brightest star, Canopus, low in the south. Above Sirius, in the east, is the constellation that the ancient Greeks called Orion, the Hunter or Warrior. The star Betelgeuse – Orion's left shoulder – has been in the news recently.

The giant orange-coloured star faded dramatically at the start of 2020, then brightened again in mid-February. Scientists did not understand why this happened, but now they have a theory. The Hubble Space Telescope observed Betelgeuse in the ultraviolet wavelength. From these observations, scientists now say that Betelgeuse released a burst of hot gases that cooled into dust and obscured part of the star. Look below and to the left of Orion's belt, formed by three stars in a row. Can you see the sparkling, orange Betelgeuse?

Check this out!

To learn more about Kenyan birds and enjoy virtual birding tours, take a look at the new YouTube channel named **"The Safari Naturalist"**: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCajjLtyL9G6mJ20Ajw1RLxA
More stories from virtual birding tours are shared under "The Safari Naturalist" blog website: https://www.thesafarinaturalist.com/virtual-birding-tours/

Birding Updates

Wednesday Morning Birdwalks and monthly Sunday Birdwatch from Nairobi remain suspended.

Mombasa Birdwalks Mombasa Birdwalks have started up again, on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

To check meeting time and place, please contact

Taibali Hamzali <thamzali@gmail.com> / 0733-980540;

Or check Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FFJmombasa/>

Birding locally? Migratory birds from Europe and Asia are winging their way to Africa. Many plovers, sandpipers and terns, and some Common Swift and Barn Swallow are already here. Brian Finch notes that additional migrants to look for in September include: Pallid and Montagu's Harriers, Eurasian Bee-eater, Sand Martin, Yellow and Grey Wagtails, Northern, Isabelline and Pied Wheatears, Whinchat, Willow Warbler – and towards the end of the month, Common (Steppe) Buzzard.

The Kenya Bird Map project would like to have your records to help document the distribution of Kenya's birds <http://kenya.birdmap.africa/> If you have questions, write to <kenyabirdmap@naturekenya.org>

To stay updated with the birding scene in Kenya, sign in to the new Kenyabirdsnet platform on Google Groups at:

https://groups.google.com/d/forum/kenyabirdsnet

After signing in you will be able to post your records through the following email address:

kenyabirdsnet@googlegroups.com

Download free QR Readers from the web and scan this QR (Quick Response) code with your smart phone for pictures and more stories.

A new website celebrating nature again after what has been such a difficult year across the globe.

We invite you and your families, friends, neighbours, colleagues and clients to take part in our first event on October 17 and 18 2020. Wherever you are in the world, simply go outside and do what we all love doing - enjoy the birds and nature around us and create a new world record as part of our Global Bird Weekend which we are bringing to you in association with BirdLife International, eBird and Swarovski Optik.

We are Birding Together for Conservation to raise funds for BirdLife International's vital appeal to Stop Illegal Bird Trade. We hope you will join us in our fundraising and help to make this a spectacular success.

Please take a look at our website **www.Global Birding.org**

Social media pages:
Facebook Global Birding
Twitter @Global_Birding
Instagram Global Birding

To register now and join in, click this link to our website Registration and contact pages.

Please contact me for any further information or queries or how you feel you may wish to be involved in the future.

Tim Appleton MBE
Founder - Global Birding.org
<timappleton@globalbirding.org>
+44 (0)7703547931

BirdLife International < http://www.birdlife.org>
eBird < https://ebird.org/home>

Yes! Start my **Nature**Kenya membership

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Tel. _____
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Email _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPES
Ksh Per Year

Full	2,000
Sponsor	6,000
Family	2,800
Student	1,200
Schools, Clubs	1,500
Corporates	20,000 -30,000

JOIN/RENEW MEMBERSHIP

- Select **'Lipa na Mpesa'**
- Select **'Pay Bill'**
- Enter business number **100300**
- Enter account number **(put your lapsed membership number or write new member)**
- Enter the amount, enter your PIN
- Confirm details & press OK

For details on associated groups such as Youth Committee, Succulenta, and Friends of Nairobi Arboretum, City Park or Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, contact office@naturekenya.org